

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 24, 2007, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicant respectfully traverses all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 13, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnside et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0064815 A1) and further in view of Bonola (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,514). Claims 4-5 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

For the sake of brevity, the rejections of the independent claims 1, 13, and 18 are discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patentably distinct over the cited references, as they depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate and independent bases for patentability.

Applicant respectfully submits that Burnside and Bonola, either alone or in combination, do not render the claimed invention obvious because these references fail to disclose all the claimed limitations. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Burnside and Bonola do not disclose a gaming machine having a first lockable external access door to restrict access to the interior of the gaming cabinet as well as a second lockable access door located within the gaming cabinet that is configured to only allow access to the unswitched connections. The second lockable door prevents unauthorized individuals from turning off the processor when servicing low security components within the gaming machine. Additionally, the ability to keep the processor running and in communication with the backend system while repairs or maintenance is carried out on low security items prevent unnecessary rebooting, reconfiguring and/or authentication of the game or gaming machine. The time required to reboot, reconfigure and authenticate a gaming machine is costly to a gaming establishment in terms of having the requisite personnel to carry out and oversee these functions. Additionally, the gaming establishment loses revenue while the gaming machine is in operable (e.g., turned off or being

authenticated), but maintaining power to the processor while low security items are serviced minimizes lost revenues and costs to the gaming establishment. While Burnside may disclose a door for the gaming cabinet, Applicant respectfully submits Burnside does not teach, suggest or disclose a second lockable door may be provided in a gaming cabinet to restrict access to a portion of the power supply.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Bonola does not make up for the deficiencies of the Burnside reference. Bonola is directed to a computer system (having two or more separate computers) where one computer can turn on another computer via an external device (e.g. external modem). In contrast, the claimed invention is directed to two or more components within a single gaming machine (e.g., switched and unswitched connections (or high and low voltage power supplies)) that have restricted access to unswitched connections (or low voltage power supplies). Applicant respectfully submits that Bonola teaches away from the claimed invention because Bonola is directed to a system of at least two computers whereas the claimed invention is directed to a single gaming machine. Additionally, Bonola does not teach or suggest a second access door that restricts access to a portion of a power supply.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 13 and 15-19 has been overcome and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 2-3, 14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnside et al. and Bonola as applied to claims above, and further in view of Stockdale et al.(U.S. Patent No. 6,804,763 B1). Claims 2-3 and 20 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant notes that claim 14 is a dependent claim that depends from independent claim 13. In light of the arguments submitted in Section 1 of this response, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 14 is not obvious in view of the combination of Burnside, Bonola, and Stockdale because these references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the claimed limitations. Moreover, these dependent claims further recite and define the claimed

invention, and thus, are independently patentable. In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 14 has been overcome.

CONCLUSION

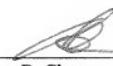
Applicant has made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1 and 13-19 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees indicated in the Fee Transmittal, any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 734-3200. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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